REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner Hannett is thanked for the thorough examination of the subject Patent Application. The Claims have been carefully reviewed and amended, and are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 USC §102(e) of Claims 31-34, 38, and 39 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,724,945 (Yen, et al.) is requested in light of the following arguments.

Yen, et al. describes a method for correcting a defective pixel based upon curvature information computed from pixel values located near the defective pixel. Alternately, a median pixel value is determined from values of pixels located near a defective pixel, and the defective pixel is corrected based upon the median pixel value. Yen, et al. does not provide:

With regards to Claims 31-33

a method of detecting a defective pixel element .....comprising:

selecting a first pixel element of said image for determination that said pixel element is defective;

identifying a two dimensional neighborhood associated with said first pixel element;

partitioning said two dimensional neighborhood into a plurality of subsets of the associated set such that said first pixel element is centrally included;

determining an arithmetic central value for each of the plurality of subsets of said two dimensional neighborhood;

for the captured image, comparing a value of said first pixel element with a second value related to said arithmetic central value determined from element values of pixel elements in said two dimensional neighborhood associated with said first pixel element;

determining from the comparison if the first pixel element value is in error; and

substituting the first pixel element value with a third value related to a value of at least one of the other pixels elements in the two dimensional neighborhood. (Claim 31, Lines 4-21)

With regards to Claims 34 and 39

a defective pixel detection circuit in communication with the controller and configured to identify a first pixel, identify a two dimensional neighborhood associated with said first pixel, to partition said two dimensional neighborhood, to determine an arithmetic central value for each of the plurality of subsets of said two dimensional neighborhood, and to determine when a value of a first pixel associated with a first pixel sensor element within a two dimensional neighborhood associated with said first pixel is in error by comparing the value of the first pixel to a second value related to an arithmetic central value determined from at least one other pixel

element within the two dimensional neighborhood. (Claim 34, Lines 5-18)

Yen, et al. does not provide a method and system for detecting and correcting defective picture elements in an imaging array by selecting a set of picture elements associated with the candidate picture element, dividing the set of picture elements into subsets that are used to determine an arithmetic central value (mean, average, median) that is used to calculate a comparison value (the second value) that is used to determine whether the selected candidate picture element is defective. If the candidate picture element is defective, the picture element is replaced with a value derived from the arithmetic central value.

The applicant acknowledges that Claims 1-30 and 35-37 are allowed and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance for all claims be issued in this case.

It is requested that should Examiner Hannett not find that the Claims are now allowable, that the undersigned be called at (845) 452-5863 to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,
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